MARKED-UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIM(S)

20. (Amended) A method for recovering a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material, which comprises the steps of:

releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material and forming an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

contacting and mixing the solution containing the released nucleic acids and the chaotropic agent with a substance containing silicon oxide thereby to bind the nucleic acids to the substance;

isolating the substance to which the nucleic acid is contacted from the solution;

washing the isolated substance with an aqueous washing solution containing alcohol; [and]

eluting the nucleic acid bound to the substance from the adsorbing solid phase, and

removing alcohol contained in the eluted nucleic acid,

wherein the releasing step through the eluting step are conducted separately and in turn.

25. (Amended) A method for recovering a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material, which comprises the steps of:

releasing a nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-bearing material and forming an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

adding a chaotropic agent to an aqueous solution containing the released nucleic acid;

contacting and mixing the solution containing the released nucleic acid and the chaotropic agent with a substance containing silicon oxide thereby to bind the nucleic acids to the substance;

isolating the substance to which the nucleic acid is adsorbed from the solution;

washing the isolated substance with an aqueous washing solution containing alcohol and acetate; [and]

eluting the nucleic acid bound to the substance, thereby to obtain a purified nucleic acid, and

removing alcohol contained in the eluted nucleic acid,

wherein the releasing step through the eluting step are conducted separately and in turn.

29. (Amended) The method according to claim 28, which further comprises:

the step of providing an aqueous fourth solution containing a salt and an alcohol for washing the separated substance, conducted separately after the separating step;

the step of providing an aqueous fifth solution containing a buffer for eluting the nucleic acid from the substance; and

the step of removing alcohol and salt remaining in the eluted nucleic acid.